

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 8-13 with the following paragraph.

The tip portion 14 includes a blunt end surface ~~18~~ 19 and a rearwardly projecting hook portion 20 which is adjacent an upper edge 22 of the body 12. The tip portion 14 is preferably configured substantially identical to the head end portion 14 described in U.S. Patent No. 3,624,747 entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT FOR RUPTURING MEMBRANES, issued November 30, 1971, and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, and in particular FIGS. 2-5 and the associated description.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 6-15 with the following paragraph.

The lobes 28 and 30 preferably have a maximum thickness T1 of from about 1/2 to about 1/4 inch, and the maximum thickness T2 of the connecting segment 32 preferably corresponds to the thickness of the body 12, e.g., about 1/8 inch, such that the ratio of the thickness T1 of the enlarged lobes to the thickness T2 of the connecting segment is preferably from about 2 to about 4. The thickness of the lobes 28 and 30 preferably tapers toward the connecting segment 32, and toward the location where the ~~portion~~ lobe 28 joins the body 12 and toward the terminal free end of the portion 30 for comfort and aesthetics. The connecting segment 32 likewise includes a series of ribs or serrations 34 preferably running substantially parallel to the width or height of the segment 32 for facilitating gripping and for aesthetics.